Butterflies

Butterflies are beautiful, flying insects with large scaly wings. They have six jointed legs, 3 body parts, a pair of antennae, compound eyes, and an exoskeleton. The three body parts are the head, thorax (the chest), and abdomen (the tail end). The body is covered with tiny sensory hairs. They have four wings and six legs that that are attached to the thorax, which contains muscles that make their legs and wings move.

The butterfly has two large wings that are very colorful, iridescent scales in overlapping rows. The wings are attached to the thorax, and veins support the delicate wings and nourish them with blood. Butterflies can only fly if their body temperature is above 86 degrees. They usually sun themselves to warm up in cool weather. As they age their color fades and their wings become ragged, just as moths do also. The speeds they fly varies among different species (the poisonous varieties are slower), but the fastest (skippers) can fly up to 30 miles per hour. Or more, and the slower ones about 5 miles per hour.

The life cycle of a butterfly or moth undergoes complete metamorphosis in which they go through four different stages. The egg, which is often laid on a leaf. Then the larva stage (caterpillar) hatches and eats leaves and flowers almost constantly. It then, at some point loses its old skin many times as it grows. Increasing size several thousand times before pupating. At the pupa stage, it turns into chrysalis, which is a resting sage. Then on to the adult stage, where a beautiful flying adult emerges, and this adult ill continue the cycle. The Butterflies and moths can only sip liquid food using tube-like proboscis, which is its long flexible tongue. Most live on the nectar from flowers, and old rotting fruit. Some consume rotting animal flesh or animal fluids. Butterflies are found all over the world, different environments. Most butterflies are found in tropical areas, especially rainforests, many migrate.